



A district commissioner is an appointed or elected member of the governing body of a conservation district. In taking the Oath of Office, a commissioner commits to exercising the rights and responsibilities of Commissioners as spelled out in Soil and Water Conservation Districts Law, Sec. 48-9-10 of the South Carolina Code of Laws.

This law charges conservation districts with the responsibility of providing first-line leadership in developing and implementing plans to meet conservation needs of the district. It also charges districts with the responsibility of finding the resources with which to plan and implement programs that will address the conservation needs of the district.

In order to be an effective member of the conservation district board a commissioner must:

- Be familiar with the state law.
- Help identify conservation needs and assist with the planning to address these needs. Planning should be done on an annual and long-range basis.
- Work with all agencies with conservation interests and expertise to meet conservation needs.
- Cooperate with other districts and/or agencies to develop and carry out conservation plans.
- Determine funding needs and find sources of funds to meet the conservation needs.
- Keep the public informed about your conservation programs.
- Stay abreast of conservation issues and speak out wherever and whenever you have the opportunity to educate the public on issues that affect our natural resources.
- Find ways to evaluate the progress of your conservation programs. Evaluations should be done annually and on a long-range basis.
- Work with other districts through the S.C. Association of Conservation Districts to help the Land, Water and Conservation Division of the S.C. Department of Natural Resources develop programs that are suitable to your district.
- **Finally, never relinquish your responsibilities to your staff!** Staff, whether district, SCDNR or Natural Resources and Conservation Service, exist to help you carry out the programs you help formulate. Your responsibility is to plan and to implement these programs; theirs is to assist you in this effort.